The Cochin Mechanical Lighters' Excise Duty Bill.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I rise to move that the Cochin Mechanical Lighters Excise Duty Bill be taken up and passed.

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar.—I second it.

Motion put and carried.

The Cochin Contempt of Courts Bill.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Sir, I rise to move that the Cochin Contempt of Courts Bill be read in Council.

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar—I second it.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Just one or two words to explain what exactly the Bill is about. Under the existing provisions of law, courts of law have certain powers of dealing with contempt of court committed immediately in their immediate presence. But for other contempts, as for instance, as commenting upon a pending litigation in newspapers or platforms it is doubted whether the existing machinery of the law is adequate. The British Indian High Courts have assumed a certain inherent jurisdiction, all along for dealing with such cases. But such inherent jurisdiction does not appear to be available to our Chief Court. In Travancore some legislation more or less corresponding to the present Bill but not quite, exists. This bill is an attempt to confer upon the Chief Court powers to deal with contempt committed both in regard to the subordinate courts and with regard to the Chief Court itself whether the contempt itself was committed in the immediate presence of either the subordinate court or the Chief Court, or not. Hon'ble Members will realise that the necessity for such a provision of law is bound to be felt in a progressive State like this, where we have various means of publicity. Such a provision of law has existed practically all along in England and other western countries and exists more or less in the same form in British India. Government feel that it is high time that such a law is passed in this State also. Although it is not a controversial matter, since it is of a novel nature in Cochin, I do propose the appointment of a Select Committee. I move that the Bill may be read in Council.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—I am constrained to strongly oppose this motion. This Bill is not so important as it has been sought to be made out. According to this Bill if we

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